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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

9 SEP 1969

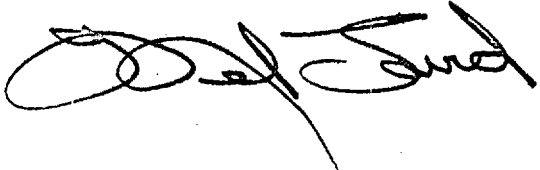
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY

SUBJECT: CIA Requirements for Airborne DF and Intercept in Laos

I have carefully considered the request by the Director, National Security Agency (DIRNSA) for five EC-47 ALR-38/ZULU configured aircraft to satisfy airborne direction finding (ARDF) and airborne intercept requirement in support of CIA activities in Laos.

I have determined that there are insufficient EC-47 ARL-38/ZULU configured aircraft currently available in Southeast Asia, or elsewhere, to satisfy immediately the request made by DIRNSA. There are currently three aircraft with this capability in SVN, and an additional seven will be field modified to this capability by December, 1969. The five EC-47 aircraft undergoing modification to ALR-35/ZULU capability in CONUS are attrition replacements for SVN resources and are not due to be completed until July 1970. All currently programmed ARDF resources are urgently needed in support of operations in SVN, and additional EC-47's could not be modified in time to satisfy the immediate requirement. Due to the limited number of resources to satisfy critical requirements, both in SVN and Laos, I have concluded that these resources must remain under the unified operational control of COMUSMACV.

I have noted that the EC-47 ARDF sortie rate for Northern Laos has increased from an equivalent of 5 sorties per week in May 1969 to 13 sorties per week in July 1969. I nevertheless consider the CIA operations in Laos of sufficiently critical importance, at this time, to warrant a further increase in airborne DF and intercept support. I therefore request that COMUSMACV undertake to provide this increased coverage, subject only to highest priority requirements in relation to SVN.



OSD review completed

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Approved For Release 2007/08/06 : CIA-RDP80R01720R001300030062-3

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